

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Slaughter Announces \$760,032 Grant for Four University of Rochester Departments
Funding Aims to Engage Minority Students in Research Sciences**

Washington, DC - Rep. Louise M. Slaughter (D-Fairport), Ranking Member of the House Rules Committee, is pleased to announce that four departments within the University of Rochester have each received three year-long federal grants. The total amount of funding for the University over the life of the grants will be \$760,032.

The funding, issued by the United States Department of Education Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need Program, will support work at the University's Institute of Optics, School of Nursing, Department of Chemistry, and Department of Physics and Astronomy. The grant specifically targets students from minority groups historically neglected by PhD programs in the research sciences.

"The University of Rochester has a long history of attracting high-quality students to its PhD programs," Rep. Slaughter said. "Our challenge is to open doors to an even more diverse group of students."

"By investing in these underrepresented students, we are not only investing in the future of Rochester, but in the future of our entire country," the Congresswoman continued.

"Initiatives like this one shows the vision and leadership this University possesses," Rep. Slaughter said. "It deserves the generous support it has received today."

A summary of the funding, broken down by University department, can be found below:

Institute of Optics

The University of Rochester's Institute of Optics program aims to meet the national need for enhanced teaching and research in optical science and engineering. This widely respected graduate program is composed of a specialized curriculum only offered by a handful of US universities. Specifically, the grant will provide the resources required for eight graduate students to study for a PhD in optics. Women and minorities within the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences are especially encouraged to apply for these fellowships.

School of Nursing □

The School of Nursing's research and PhD program has a long tradition of academic excellence. The funding it receives will finance 8 fellowships to the School of Nursing's PhD and MS-PhD programs. The grant money will be used to accelerate the number of PhD-holding nurses preparing to join nursing faculty both locally and nationally.

Department of Chemistry

The Department of Chemistry will establish six graduate fellowships for students with PhDs in Chemistry who intend to pursue teaching and research careers in the US.

Department of Physics and Astronomy

The Department of Physics and Astronomy will use the funding to extend their Physics PhD program for an additional three years. This successful and innovative program aims to increase the number of PhD recipients in Physics who intend to pursue teaching and research careers in the US.

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